

To apply for health care, veterans can now fill out and submit an easy-to-follow Internet-based application form, which is automatically electronically mailed to the VA health care facility selected by the veteran. VA employees register the data, print the form and mail it back to the veteran for signature. Veterans can also print out the completed form and mail it to a VA health care facility themselves.

Since 1996, when all honorably discharged veterans became eligible to enroll for VA health care, more than a half-million additional veterans have done so. Why? Every VA patient now has a primary care provider and team. VA has computerized mail-out pharmacy services that ensure the timely delivery of drugs to patients. VA has instituted aggressive performance measures that have led to implementation of the best practices of government and private sector health care. On average, VA medical facilities now receive higher accreditation scores than do private sector facilities.

While this transformation was taking place, VA became an industry leader in such areas as patient safety, surgical quality assessment, the computerization of medical records, telehealth, preventive screenings and immunizations.

There have been no big wars lately, no long lines of troops coming home, no welcoming parades necessary. And as these events and the years between fade, so too do memories. It might be only human to become complacent about those who not so long ago left their families, their schools, their jobs, and the security of their lives because their country asked. They now need our help, as will future generations of servicemen and women, but platitudes on Veterans Day and Memorial Day are woefully inadequate. Words alone will not mend broken spirits and cannot heal broken bodies. The best possible care—the type VA provides as part of a comprehensive system of benefits—is the most appropriate honor we can bestow on veterans.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Monday, July 16, 2001, the Federal debt stood at \$5,709,313,725,685.43, five trillion, seven hundred nine billion, three hundred thirteen million, seven hundred twenty-five thousand, six hundred eighty-five dollars and forty-three cents.

Five years ago, July 16, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,158,430,000,000, five trillion, one hundred fifty-eight billion, four hundred thirty million.

Ten years ago, July 16, 1991, the Federal debt stood at \$3,541,429,000,000, three trillion, five hundred forty-one billion, four hundred twenty-nine million.

Fifteen years ago, July 16, 1986, the Federal debt stood at \$2,069,283,000,000, two trillion, sixty-nine billion, two hundred eighty-three million.

Twenty-five years ago, July 16, 1976, the Federal debt stood at \$618,625,000,000, six hundred eighteen billion, six hundred twenty-five million, which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion, \$5,090,688,725,685.43, five trillion, ninety billion, six hundred eighty-eight mil-

lion, seven hundred twenty-five thousand, six hundred eighty-five dollars and forty-three cents during the past 25 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

PRAISE FOR GEORGIA'S KWAME BROWN ON BEING NBA'S NUMBER ONE DRAFT

● Mr. MILLER. Mr. President, every one of us has a life story. Every person is a book, and I would like to tell you about one young man from the state of Georgia who is beginning a new chapter in his.

Kwame Brown has known adversity since the age of 5, when his parents split up for good and he landed in a shelter with his mother and siblings for 10 months. With the help of relatives, Kwame and his family got out of that shelter and things got better—but not by much. Kwame's mother, Joyce, raised him and his seven siblings by herself in Brunswick, GA, supporting the family by cleaning hotel rooms. That job ended in 1993 when a back injury and other health problems left Ms. Brown unable to work. Since then, the family has scraped by on a monthly disability check and a few extra dollars from babysitting. Their mode of transportation: a bicycle. Such adversity would break most families, but not Kwame Brown's family.

With the help of a church mentor, Kwame and his siblings became focused and set goals for themselves. Kwame decided he wanted to be a better student and a better basketball player. Through his faith and many hours of hard work, Kwame improved his grades so much that he landed on the honor roll at Brunswick's Glynn Academy. And now he has achieved something that no other person in this country ever has.

On June 27, 2001, 19-year-old Kwame became the first high school player ever to be picked as the No. 1 draft in the NBA. This young man who once lived in a neighborhood so poor it was nicknamed "The Bottom" has pulled himself up to the very top.

At 6-foot-11 inches tall and 240 pounds, Kwame averaged 20.1 points, 13.3 rebounds and 5.8 blocked shots as a senior last year at Glynn Academy; he scored 1,539 career points. His exceptional talent has given rise to a number of awards. He was named to McDonald's All-America Team and USA Today's All-USA First team. He was also Georgia's High School Player of the Year.

Kwame Brown is not only a star on the court. His off-the-court life is just as exemplary. Even though he went against his mother's wishes in postponing plans to attend the University of Florida, Kwame believes that his decision to enter the NBA will allow him

to give his family a better life than they have ever known. And he has promised his mother and himself that he will still get that college education. First, he wants to give his mother something she has never had: the keys to a brand new home.

Basketball legend Michael Jordan, who is part-owner of the Wizards, called Kwame "a confident kid who understands his surroundings . . . He comes from a family where nothing has been given to him. He has gotten this far with hard work and a little dreaming."

I am honored to recognize Kwame Brown, a young man who is not only a talented athlete, but also humble, wise and mature beyond his years. I look forward to this new chapter in Kwame's life with great anticipation. I know his will be a fascinating story with a wonderful ending.●

TRIBUTE TO JAMES LAKE

● Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to James Lake upon the occasion of his completion in June of a tenure as the President of the American Nuclear Society for the 2000/2001 year. The American Nuclear Society is an international scientific and educational organization established in 1954. Its membership now has approximately 11,000 engineers, scientists, administrators, and educators representing over 1,600 corporations, educational institutions, and government agencies.

The work of nuclear engineers and scientists is especially relevant to meeting the increasing need of the Nation for electricity. Around the United States, there is a growing public interest in new nuclear plants which offer an economical, safe and environmentally-friendly alternative for the generation of electricity. The development of nuclear professionals is a valuable service for the Nation that advances our energy security and economic well-being.

Jim Lake's service as the President of the American Nuclear Society this year has helped to stimulate the interest in new nuclear generation which has stemmed from energy shortages in California and higher energy prices in many areas. He has crossed the Nation many times this year to meet with nuclear professionals, industry executives, public servants, educators and students to seek their views and ideas on an expanding role for nuclear energy in the Nation's future. He has represented the professionals of the United States in many forums overseas, and has brought home a broad perspective on nuclear energy's role in a balanced energy portfolio.

Jim Lake's career now spans twenty-eight years, of which he has spent the last seventeen at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory in my State. As he completes

his tenure as President, he returns to the Laboratory as an Associate Laboratory Director with an enthusiasm for nuclear energy that is fueled by his many experiences of the last year.

Always interested in the development of the professionals at the Laboratory, Jim has been an active and tireless supporter of the Idaho Section of the American Nuclear Society. His leadership of that section resulted in its award for Outstanding Section Management in 1992. The Idaho Section has won many awards in the last ten years and is considered to be truly one of the best in the society.

Jim Lake attended the Georgia Institute of Technology, receiving a Master's degree in 1969 and a Doctoral degree in 1972. He was elected a Distinguished Engineering Alumnus by Georgia Tech in 1996, and a Fellow of the American Nuclear Society in 1992. He is the author of over thirty technical publications in the disciplines of reactor physics, nuclear engineering and nuclear reactor design. I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our deep appreciation to Jim Lake for his outstanding service, for his leadership of the American Nuclear Society and in wishing him well in all future endeavors.●

IN RECOGNITION OF WILLIAM N. GUERTIN

● Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I am pleased today to commend Mr. William N. Guertin for his election as President of the American Association of Medical Society Executives and for his 30 years of service to the medical doctors of Alameda-Contra Costa counties and his many achievements.

Mr. Guertin has been a member of the Alameda-Contra Costa Medical Association, ACCMA, since 1971, and has held two executive offices, Assistant Executive Director and Executive Director. The ACCMA serves over 3,100 doctors and is the second largest medical association in California.

Mr. Guertin's leadership supported many California doctors' efforts to help, cure, and care for people in need of support and medical help. He has worked to create programs that promote public health, quality access to care, and professional standards in California. Mr. Guertin has worked to protect physicians from impositions that would interfere with their ability to interact successfully with their patients. Mr. Guertin created the first doctor-owned professional liability insurance carrier in California, at a time when doctors were not able to obtain the insurance necessary to practice quality medicine.

The practice of medicine has long been a profession of people who devote their time and effort to helping others. Mr. Guertin has worked tirelessly for the past 30 years to facilitate the work

of physicians and to enhance the quality of care for the people of Alameda-Contra Costa counties.

For these reasons, I congratulate Mr. Guertin on his new position as President of the American Association of Medical Society Executives. I am confident that Mr. Guertin will succeed in his new position and work to augment the lives of patients and physicians throughout the Nation.●

JAN KARSKI—A QUIET HERO

● Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, today I remind my colleagues of a story I read in the New York Times almost exactly one year ago today. It was the July 15, 2000, obituary of a man named Jan Karski. I was absolutely fascinated by this man's life story and with the first anniversary of his death, I am reminded of the role he played in our modern history. Like few others, he had a unique window view into an appalling and shameful era of history—the Holocaust. Let me explain.

During World War II, Jan Karski brought to the Allied leaders in the West—and at no small risk to his own life—what is believed to be the first eyewitness reports of Hitler's indescribable acts of hate and cruelty against the Jews. In 1942, Jewish resistance leaders asked Jan, then a 28-year-old courier for the Polish underground, to be their voice to the West—to convey to the Allies an actual eyewitness account of the Jewish genocide in Europe.

He readily accepted this dreadful task, as he knew that someone had to tell the world exactly what was happening in Europe. Though he succeeded in relaying the nightmarish sights to Western leaders, his reports were met initially by indifference. While many others eventually would confirm Jan's horrifying accounts of the Jewish concentration camps and the Warsaw Ghetto in Poland, he was one of the first—and one of very few—to take a stand against these atrocities.

We are discovering that Jan's voice was not the only warning of the wholesale slaughter of innocent human life by Nazi Germany. As we speak, a dedicated group of individuals, both in government and in the private sector, are declassifying and releasing to the public thousands and thousands of pages of previously classified material about Nazi war criminals, persecution, and looting. This effort is the result of the "Nazi War Crimes Disclosure Act"—legislation I wrote into law with my friends and colleagues from New York, Senator PATRICK MOYNIHAN and Congresswoman CAROLYN MALONEY.

Just this past April, in fact, our law made history with the release of 10,000 pages of previously classified Central Intelligence Agency, (CIA), files on 20 key figures from the Nazi party, including Adolf Hitler, Klaus Barbie,

Adolf Eichmann, Kurt Waldheim, Heinrich Mueller, and Josef Mengele. And, prior to that last summer, 400,000 pages of other historical documents were released.

A number of those documents contained information that Fritz Kolbe provided to U.S. intelligence authorities in 1943. Mr. Kolbe was a member of the German resistance and worked in the German Foreign Office. Code-named "George Wood," Mr. Kolbe put his life on the line by traveling to Switzerland, carrying highly sensitive information on Nazi activities for delivery to U.S. intelligence agents. A complete set of these documents in translation is now available for historical review. Also available in its entirety is the U.S. State Department's complete debrief of Mr. Kolbe from September 1945. This document shows that he did not act alone, but relied on what he called his "Inner Circle," which consisted of as many as 20 other Germans. The names of these individuals are not well known members of the resistance—they are ordinary people, like Jan Karski.

While the gruesome reality of Nazi Germany eventually became clear to the world and as the Allies acted to end Hitler's evil regime, Jan's job—his mission—never really ended. For the rest of his life, he carried with him the sights, the sounds, the smells, and the sadness of the Holocaust. Karski, himself, once said: "This sin will haunt humanity to the end of time. It does haunt me. And, I want it to be so."

Jan Karski wanted us all to be haunted by the Holocaust. He wanted us never to forget. He devoted his life to ensuring that such inhumane horror would be present forever in our collective conscience, so that we, above all else, will never let this dark chapter in our history ever, ever repeat itself.

While we often think of heroes in terms of epic feats on the battlefield or in the face of great danger, Jan Karski is no less a hero for giving a voice to a silent slaughter. I ask my colleagues to think about that and to take some time to consider the life of Jan Karski and the life of Fritz Kolbe. Their stories, along with others newly discovered, help fill the holes of history, while revisiting a fundamental, troubling question of what the West knew about the Holocaust and when we knew it.

I encourage my colleagues to learn more about Jan and Fritz. Read last year's New York Times obituary about Jan's life. Talk about his story with your families. To understand the Holocaust is to remember the lives of Jan Karski and Fritz Kolbe—to remember—"always remember," as Jan would say—what their sacrifices meant—and still mean—for our world.●